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SPRITUALISM'S PICTURE AND JOURNAL

TRUTH The PSYCHIC OBSERVER

TRUTH
FOR
AUTHORITY
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TRUTH

NUMBER 178

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10 CENTS

Lincoln Appeared as Extra On His Wife's Picture

(See Picture Extreme Right)

MEDIUM DID NOT KNOW HER IDENTITY

A Rare Spirit Photograph

Seances held in White House had tremendous effect on the history of United States.

This spirit picture is historic. It shows Abraham Lincoln, as an extra, two years after his passing, standing behind his wife. In 1867 Mrs. Lincoln, who, like her husband, was a Spiritualist, paid a visit to William H. Mumler, a photographic medium in Boston.

She gave the name of Mrs. Tyn-dall. Mrs. Lincoln was dressed in black and, prior to the picture being taken, wore a veil over her face. (See picture extreme right.)

According to the record, Mumler did not know who she was and had no means of knowing. He was accustomed, however, to strangers asking for seances. Her visit called for no special comment.

When a print was taken of the negative, Mumler immediately recognized the extra as President Lincoln. He showed it to his visitor and asked if she identified it. She replied that she did.

Another woman who was present, on seeing it, exclaimed, "Why this looks like President Lincoln." Mrs. Lincoln answered, "Yes, it does. I am his widow."

There is no photograph in existence that in any way resembles the grouping of husband and wife, so that fraud is out of the question.

White House Seances

The story has been told many times of how seances were given in the White House during Lincoln's Presidency. Nettie Maynard Colburn, a powerful trance medium, visited Washington in the winter of 1862 to see her brother who was in the hospital of the Federal Army.

Mrs. Lincoln had a sitting with this medium, and was so enormously impressed by the result that she sent a carriage next day to bring the medium to see the



Psychic Observer

The authenticity of above photograph is vouched for by the editor of this journal who took the picture with a Brownie No. 2 camera during a seance at the home of Reid Williams, Secretary of Southern Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp (1937). By turning the picture upside down, the upper portion of a Negro's body is plainly visible. Significant evidence. The other two women were identified.

President. These seances had a tremendous effect on the history of the United States. As a result of the spirit messages Lincoln received during this crisis in the Civil War, he was urged to visit the camps of his army, infuse his men with the crusading spirit, and finally to issue the Proclamation of Emancipation which ended slavery in America.

William Mumler was the first spirit photographer. He was employed as an engraver by a leading firm of Boston jewelers, and was not a Spiritualist or a professional photographer.

One day, in a friend's studio, he tried to take a photograph of himself by focusing the camera on an empty chair and springing into position after uncovering the lens.

His Own Cousin

When developing the plate, he discovered an extra figure on it, a young, transparent girl fading away into a dim mist which clouded the lower part of the picture. On the back of the photograph Mumler wrote:

"This photograph was taken of myself, by myself, on Sunday, when there was not a living soul in the room beside me — so to speak. The form on my right I recognize as my cousin, who passed away about 12 years since."

Mumler repeated the experiment, and soon satisfied himself that the extra faces on his plates were of supernatural origin. The news of his discovery quickly spread and he was besieged with requests for sittings. At first he refused, but finally yielded.

Tested By Experts

As his fame spread, he was compelled to give up his own work and devote his whole time to his me-

(Continued foot next column)

Was Roosevelt Guided By Lincoln? Seance Messages Told Of His Spirit Help

This Spirit Photograph Convinced Mrs. Lincoln



Psychic Observer

When Lincoln's wife went for a sitting with Mumler, noted Spirit Photographer of the Civil War days, the picture above was received. Its authenticity was not questioned by Mrs. Lincoln at any time and to this day this picture remains unchallenged.

"When Religion is attacked, the opposition comes from the enemies of Democracy."

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the man who was at the helm in the United States through all the years of difficulty and controversy that almost divided the nation, culminating in his superb leadership during the war, was guided by Abraham Lincoln.

Again and again, newspapers commented on the Lincolnian ring in Roosevelt's speeches. In January, 1940, before the United States was involved in war, and Roosevelt was urging, despite strong Isolationist feeling in his country, that full aid should be given to the Allies, he made a speech at the opening of Congress. One national newspaper, in a leading article headed "Lincoln Speaks Again," said: "In such terms would Abraham Lincoln have spoken to the world at this hour."

"He was so like Lincoln," said Dorothy Thompson, famous American columnist, "yet in every physical and material way no two men could be more different."

R. J. Cruikshank put it another way in the London "Star": "Like Lincoln, he seemed to possess a mediumistic quality about men, policies and events."

Like a Clairvoyant

Then Sir Philip Gibbs in the "Sunday Chronicle," telling of a visit to the White House during the black days of the war, said he found Roosevelt "serene, cheerful and utterly confident of final victory."

"It was not a pose, as I could see," wrote Gibbs. "He was like a clairvoyant who saw the future in a clear and shining vision." Of Roosevelt's personality he said, "There was something strange about it, something almost supernatural."

In 1937, when Horace Hambling, the well known trance medium, was in America, Lincoln, speaking through him, said: "I am not allowed to reveal to what

diumship. First there came private sitters of good repute, who obtained evidential and recognizable extras of "dead" friends and relatives and were satisfied that the results were genuine.

Then came professional photographers, who were sure there must be some trick. They imposed all sorts of tests, often with their own plates, cameras and chemicals, but stated they could find no trickery. Mumler went to their photographic studios and allowed them to do all

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 5)

extent Franklin Delano is under my guidance, nor where his task will finish."

On that occasion, through Hambling's mediumship, a spirit picture of Lincoln was obtained on a roll of films bought by R. G. Pressing, editor of *Psychic Observer*, a Spiritualist journal. The local photographer was disappointed when he developed the films because he thought the psychic extras meant the pictures were spoiled! This picture is reproduced in column 2, this page.

Roosevelt achieved world fame as one of the greatest exponents of democracy. He was a champion of every phase of human freedom. The words he used just before the war in an address to Congress have a striking application to the situation Spiritualists are facing today, although, of course, he was referring to the tyranny of the dictators.

"Where freedom and religion have been attacked," he said, "the attackers come from sources opposed to democracy. There comes a time in the affairs of men when they must prepare to defend not only their homes but the tenets of faith and humanity whereon their churches, their government and their very civilization are founded."

There Comes a Time

The prayer he composed in 1942 for the United Nations had nothing sectarian or creedal in it, and owed no inspiration to any of the orthodoxies. It was of the kind that any Spiritualist could use.

He said: "Grant us wisdom and vision to comprehend the greatness of man's spirit that suffers and endures so hugely for a goal beyond his own brief span."

Many of his simple yet profound utterances were couched in this wider vision of spirit realities. Asked during the war what, in his opinion, was America's most fundamental need, Roosevelt replied:

"No greater thing could come to our land today than a revival of the spirit of religion. I doubt if there is any problem, social, political or economic, that would not melt away before the fires of such a spiritual awakening."

And who will forget his Four Freedoms, his simple but eloquent summary of the principles for

which we fight? They include an ideal which Spiritualists have not yet obtained, "freedom for every man to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world."

Meeting in the Beyond

Now Roosevelt has gone to the spirit world which was the source of his inspiration, his sustenance and his guidance, to receive the reward for his long championship of human dignity and liberty, his labors for the downtrodden and the outcast, and his fight against oppression. He will be greeted by Lincoln, his great compatriot, who stood behind him throughout the stirring times in which Roosevelt had to exercise with skill and adroitness all the gifts with which he was richly endowed.

The meeting between the two great American Presidents—only history can decide which was the greater—is an historic occasion. Roosevelt will meet other figures enshrined in his country's history, men and women who previously were only names to him, but whom he will now begin to know as real living beings.

And when Roosevelt has accustomed himself to his new surroundings, he, too, will continue to exercise his talents to guide others who are called upon to lead the destiny of a great people through the difficult years that lie ahead.

"Psychic News"

Facts Can Be Found in
**WAS
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
A SPIRITUALIST?**

By
Nettie Coburn Maynard
(See Page 7)



Psychic Observer

His ideals have permeated American consciousness; his philosophy will never be forgotten. He is carrying on

The CIVIL WAR

A Chapter from the Book
"Thru The Open Door"

By
THE MINSTREL

Two Pictures Out of the Past
in the Heart-breaking Days
of the Civil War.

SCENE I

"Do you suppose I shall know you in your disguise?" she asked.

"Certainly. You have only to watch me walk. I shall limp."

"I hope you get through. It is foolhardy at best. The chances are ten to one against us."

"Don't worry, sweetheart. You make a handsome young man, entirely too handsome. The Charleston ladies will be captivated at first sight."

"The old tree near the sundial at midnight! Don't be late. I shall be hidden in the bushes. You know the place."

They separated to go their ways, he on the most dangerous mission as yet assigned to him. The North was hard pressed in the darkest days of the Civil War.

It was a gay ball that night. The beautiful old mansion sparkled with lights and laughter. Young officers in gray jested with Southern belles. Mistletoe and holly festooned the twinkling chandeliers. The tragedy of desolation seemed far away.

"Died" At Gettysburg

The pseudo young captain sought a dark-eyed beauty, easily the most popular girl present. Her bewitching curls and animated face made her the center of attraction.

"It is now or never. I must tell her of the midnight rendezvous. We can spring the trap the moment he comes. I wish I were sure of his disguise."

The group closed more tightly around the girl. Meanwhile a colored butler strained his ears to catch the slightest whisper. They were well disciplined, these Charleston aristocrats.

A clock chimed the hour. It was the appointed time. Slipping out through an open window, the girlish officer made her way in the darkness to the sundial. The shadows frightened her. This was a desperate game she was playing, and she was having to play it alone.

A figure waited in the darkness.

Where was her supposed accomplice? Who was this stranger?

"You are in danger, sir. They have you trapped. If you return, you go to certain death."

"He thinks I am Peter," she said to herself.

Then she saw him in the moonlight, his uniform stained with blood, his face white and drawn.

"Who are you?" she asked in astonishment.

"They got me at Gettysburg," he answered. "But I begged for more service and have been assigned to special duty ever since."

"Follow me," he continued. "Tell them the most critical battles of the war are at hand."

Late the next night an exhausted rider sought admission to the President.

"The girl walked right into the net," he gasped. "She kept asking for a wounded soldier. We saw no one. But we know we have caught the most dangerous agent in the South."

SCENE II

Great happenings were in the air. Nervous tension gripped the nation. No one knew what the outcome of the war would be. Alone in the White House a tall, gaunt man paced the floor in the midnight watches of that terrible winter. Misunderstood, condemned, ridiculed and maligned, he bore all that came, with magnificent fortitude. His principal grief was not for himself. In fact, he never thought of himself. His constant prayer was for others—the grief-stricken, the wounded, the dying.

One night as he paced the floor with the cares of State weighing heavily upon him, he noticed a small figure in the doorway, his dearly loved boy.

"Why are you not asleep, son?" he asked.

"I woke up and saw a lovely lady at the foot of my bed. Who was she, Father?"

"A dream, perhaps. Go back to sleep and maybe you will see her again."

Then He Prayed

The small figure obediently turned. His father's word was law. Father was always right.

"A lovely lady," said the burdened man softly to himself. "Would that I could see again the loveliest lady of them all!"

His mind went back to the days of his young manhood. How different everything would have been if only she had lived. He recalled the passion of grief which had driven him forth like a madman to wander alone over the paths they both had trod in those wonderful days which would never come again. Somehow he had picked

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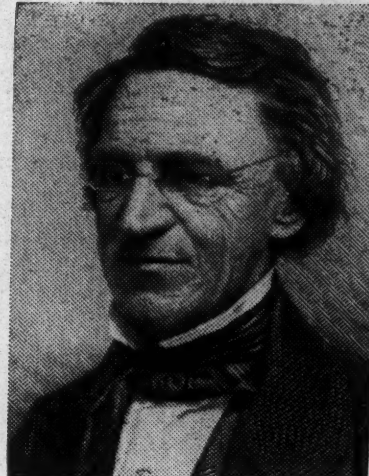
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himself up and gone on. The fear of madness faded in the pressure of hard work. But he had never lost the young beauty of her face. He could see her at will, dainty as a wild flower in her calico gown, a ribbon in her hair.

"Dear God, what shall I do?" he prayed. "Make clear the way that I may not fail."

Utterly exhausted, he sank into a chair. The quiet room no longer echoed his restless footsteps. His head sank back. In a moment he was fast asleep.

"I have never left you, Abe," he heard her say.

She stood before him, more beautiful than he had ever seen her. Her face was transfigured; her garment of purest white.

"Give me a sign," he answered. If only he could carry this vision over into waking consciousness! "You don't need a sign," she said. "You have only to think of me and I will come. You will know me by the fragrance I shall bring."

The perfume of wild roses filled the room.

"Smell The Roses, Mom"

Months passed in utter loneliness and dejection. The shoulders under the worn shawl became more and more bent; the sunken eyes burned with feverish light. How could he ever finish the job ahead, too great for any one man?

Then he saw her again. The curtain had risen. He was supposed to be enjoying the play.

"It won't be long now, dear. The separation is almost ended."

True to her word she had brought the perfume of wild roses. When the shot rang out that sent him into apparent unconsciousness, he knew deep within that she was there at his side. Slowly he sank into a veritable ocean of peace. It was so good to drift over the quiet waters with the girl he loved close by.

As the train carried his body through the countryside amid weeping throngs, a little girl said to her mother, "Smell the roses, Mom."

"Hush, Jane! This is no time to be talking of roses. The President's funeral train is on the crossing."

"But I smell them, Mom. They're lovely. I bet he likes them, too."

BOOKS written by The MINSTREL . . . "THRU THE OPEN DOOR" (\$1.50); "VOICE OF THE SPIRIT" (\$1.00); and "GOD'S COUNTRY" for sale by DALE NEWS, Inc.

ited with being a myth. There seems little reason, however, for doubting his existence. Assuming him to have existed, he is thought to have traveled through North India, teaching the people for about 40 years and dying at the age of eighty at Oude.

Buddhism is the religion or system of philosophy that has been elaborated out of the views taught and held by Buddha. Some consider it to be a relic of primeval worship, others think it a more or less conscious imitation of Christianity. Whatever its origin, it is the religion of nearly a quarter of the inhabitants of the globe.

Transmigration of Souls

Being that Buddha, like Socrates and other great teachers, left no writings, three councils of his followers, soon after his death, settled the doctrines and discipline of his religious system.

The first was just after Buddha's death. The second came a hundred years later, as a safeguard against innovators and heretics. The third, which fixed the canon, was formed in 244 B.C., during the reign and auspices of King Asota of Northern India, a great advancer of Buddhism.

The canon was committed to writing a century and a half later, and consists of the Satras for the laity, the Vinaya, or discipline for the order, and the Abhidharma or metaphysical principles.

The fundamental doctrine is that of the transmigration of souls, or the continuance of personal identity. Man passes through successive higher or lower stages of existence, the past and the present ever having their influence on the future, until he finally reaches the perfect state of Nirvana, wherein is true happiness and spiritual exaltation. Towards the attaining of this perfect state of being a life of self-denial and goodwill must be lived, through strict adherence to the moral codes of Buddhism.

"Prediction"

Lincoln Talks To His 'Dead' Mother

Sworn Testimony

Another link in the chain of evidence to prove that Abraham Lincoln was a Spiritualist is contained in this affidavit, which was sworn by Ridgley Martin, M.D., at Maumee, Ohio:

"I, Ridgley Martin, being duly sworn, depose and say that I knew Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States; that I was a close neighbor of his for a period of three years at Springfield, Illinois; studied law in a building where he had his office in the said city, attended a Spiritualist seance with Abraham Lincoln in said city; that the medium's name was Throp, and that Mr. Lincoln received messages from his mother and Ann Rutledge, his first love.

"At the close of the seance, when all eyes of the attendants, about eight in number, turned to Mr. Lincoln for an expression of opinion, the great man said: 'All religionists are more or less Spiritualists.' Mr. Lincoln was a religionist, but was not a member of any denominational church. This open expression of Mr. Lincoln's led all present to the belief that Abraham Lincoln was a Spiritualist.

"Sworn before me this 11th day of October, A.D. 1926. J. B. Todd."

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(P-181)

Bertha Marx In New York

GROUP OF NOTED WRITERS WITNESS
VARIOUS PHASES OF HER MEDIUMSHIP

**BROWN LANDONE
MANIFESTS**

By
Ed Bodin
Psychic Reporter

Ten persons in New York City on December 5th, enjoyed an evening of Billet Reading, a rather new phase of mediumship for the well known direct-voice medium *Bertha Marx* of Springfield, Ohio.

Mona, Mrs. Marx's Indian girl spirit collaborator, took over and gave in her childlike voice, satisfactory answers to requests for certain spirit loved ones. In most cases these loved ones reported to Mona, who relayed the greeting. Names of requested spirits had been written by guests on small sheets of paper, which were then folded and placed on the table in front of the entranced and blind-folded medium. The blind-fold was declared intact by spectator *Geoffrey O'Hara* the well known composer of "There Is No Death."

Edward C. Randall

Among the spirit visitors was the beloved *Etta Bledsoe* who gave an inspirational message to all, and a woman who called herself *Emily French*, the medium who sat for nearly twenty years for *Edward C. Randall* the researcher, lawyer and author, who passed away at Buffalo, N. Y. some time ago.

Mrs. French stated she had lived on Earth from 1830 to 1912 and had been deaf. She also revealed that *Chief Red Jacket* had been staying close to the medium for several days because she was interested in the proceedings, and *Bertha Marx's* mediumship.

Mrs. Marx made a profound

OHIO MEDIUM



Psychic Observer

BERTHA MARX

impression on all guests of the evening due to her sincerity, graciousness and sense of humor. She said that *Billet Reading* was new to her and she could not be sure of satisfactory results. It had been little *Mona* who had suggested the new phase because *Mona* had said: "I like to do it." And when a spirit collaborator of *Mona's* vitality is that anxious, one can expect success.

Before the reading, *Juliette Ewing Pressing* of Lily Dale, spoke to guests and told of many amusing incidents during her short stay in New York City with Mrs. Marx. She revealed that *Mona* and *Pink Flower* (Mrs. Pressing's little spirit friend) had visited Harlem, and had made an enthusiastic report; but the most enjoyable spirit experience of the two little collaborators was looking at ladies' hats and dresses in store windows along Fifth Avenue.

Mona commented on the hats worn by the lady guests at the seance. What could be more natural for a young girl on this side of the spirit plane . . . and perhaps still natural over there.

It is such revelations of spirit-

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human interest one hears from time to time, which help spiritualists get so much enjoyment out of their understanding and their profound conception that *There is no death*. Who would exchange such a blessing for the "grave is the end" hopelessness?

Governor DeWitt Clinton

The ten guests of the evening were: *Juliette Pressing*, Mrs. *Charlotte Zolotow*, Mrs. *Ed. Bodin*, *Mildred McNaughton*, *Lillian Beihoff*, Dr. *F. P. Daerr*, *Geoffrey O'Hara*, *Maurice Zolotow*, R. W. *Casey* and your reporter *Ed. Bodin*.

During her short stay in New York City, *Bertha Marx* held several direct-voice seances. During a sitting on December 6th, one of the entities which came through with clear and masculine voice, claimed to be *Governor DeWitt Clinton*. His statements were taken down by your reporter for verification or rejection by those who might know the exact facts. Here they are: "Born Little Button, Orange County, New York 1769; passed away about 1827 or 28, not sure which. Was Mayor of New York City three times."

Checking Evidence

According to an encyclopedia, *DeWitt Clinton* was born in Little Britain, Ulster County. Can anyone prove that Little Britain was called "Little Button" and that Clinton's birthplace was in Orange County, not Ulster? The dates mentioned check all right, the only difference being on the question of the name and county.

It might be that Little Britain was affectionately called "Little Button" or that *DeWitt Clinton* as a child or some child of his, had called the town "Little Button" and it became a nick name. This sounds logical.

Let us hope that once again, a spirit can put historians correct, as has been done so many times in the past. The spirit was in such good "spirits" when he talked that he would more than likely be mellow and gay and talk in a nickname way, rather than stiffness or what some foolish people think "ghosts" are made of.

A Friend Returns

Spirits don't frighten. They bring love and humor and inspiration and happiness, because they are happy and want their friends on Earth to be likewise.

Incidentally, your reporter got a thrill out of the trumpet seance of December 6th, when *Brown Landone* came through and promised aid in bringing spirit truth and science to the world, through your reporter's pen. No man had been more admired by yours truly than the ninety-nine year old genius of metaphysics *Dr. Brown Landone*, American and man of God, who progressed into spirit service in 1945. Mr. Landone thanked Mrs. Pressing for telephoning him on spirit impulse, two days before he suddenly passed away.

Bertha Marx resides at 2103 Elmwood Ave., Springfield, Ohio. She is minister of The First Spiritualist Episcopal Church of Springfield — conducting services every Sunday evening at the I.O.O.F. Temple, 13 South Fountain St. She is a lecturer, teacher, mental, trance and direct-voice medium.

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More About . . .

Lincoln's Belief In Spiritualism

The British Broadcasting Company has, consistently for a great many years, eulogized the work and ideals of a great Spiritualist and they have always secured the assistance of the Archbishop of Canterbury to extol his virtues. The great Spiritualist referred to at this time of the year is always our American President, Abraham Lincoln.

Naturally on his 137th birthday, no mention is apt to be made of his Spiritualistic convictions, or the fact that in two great crises of his life he acted only after consultation with the spirit-world, whose advice he followed. Does the Archbishop know that Lincoln's opinions were not always "in the main stream of Christian tradition"?

Facts About Lincoln's Seance Experiences in the White House.

The world is striving for Freedom! Men are laying down their lives for it as they have done in all generations! Yet the law of any country denies it to Spiritualists, who are still branded as "rogues and vagabonds" for the honest practice of their convictions. We shall win through when with our growing numbers we stand together to withstand repression.

Probably the greatest fight ever waged for freedom was that for the freeing of the American slaves, eighty-one years ago. Few people know how great was the part played by the spirit world in its attainment.

One great factor in the liberation of the slaves was Harriet Beecher Stowe's great novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin," of which half-a-million copies were sold in five years. Mrs. Stowe herself declared that she wrote the book under spirit direction. It did much to prepare the ground for the abolition of slavery.

Henry Ward Beecher

Many acknowledged Spiritualists were prominent in the abolition campaign including Mrs. Stowe's brother Rev. Henry Ward Beecher and William Lloyd Garrison, but towering above them all was Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, and to this day regarded as the father of his people. None of his biographers mention his whole-hearted allegiance to Spiritualism or record the faithfulness with which he carried out the requests of the spirit world.

Even before he attained the Presidency he was a fairly regular attendant at the weekly seances of J. B. Conklin, of New York, who was a remarkable test medium of

the trance type. Lincoln generally arrived and left without a word; but that he was deeply impressed was evident by his serious manner and regular attendance.

I have no doubt that he as a lawyer knew the value of evidence and of silence. Most of the tests he obtained from Conklin were in the nature of replies to mental questions. Lincoln would "think" the questions instead of speaking them and the replies were evidential.

Colonel S. P. Kase

Immediately after Lincoln's election to the Presidency Conklin realized that his visitor was Lincoln, and an article was published in the "Cleveland Plaindealer" claiming that Lincoln was a Spiritualist. It created a sensation. When the article was shown to Lincoln he merely said: "The only falsehood in the statement is that the half of it has not been told. This article does not begin to tell the wonderful things I have witnessed."

Conklin gave a number of seances at the White House. These were generally arranged by Mrs. Lincoln and many other mediums were invited, among them Mrs. Cranston Laurie, Mrs. Miller and a frail young girl of 18 years old, Nettie Colburn, who later became Mrs. Maynard. Lincoln often brought friends with him, including Senator Richmond, Colonel S. P. Kase, and other high officials of the State.

Seance at Mrs. Laurie's

Early in 1862, in Washington, Mrs. Lincoln had a sitting with Nettie Colburn and was so much impressed that she asked her to come and see the President. A large number of seances were held at the home of Mrs. Laurie. It was here that Nettie passed under trance and advancing to Lincoln said: "This civil war will never cease: the shout of victory will never ring through the North till you issue a proclamation that shall set free the enslaved millions of your unhappy country."

Just at that time the Proclamation of Emancipation was being

prepared and much pressure was brought to bear upon the President to defer its issue and enforcement. Nettie Colburn's guides appealed to Lincoln not to abate the terms of the proclamation and not to delay its enforcement. He was told "it would be the crowning event of his life," and history has shown that estimate to be correct. He was urged to publish the proclamation at once and not to delay its enforcement after the New Year. It came into effect therefore in January, 1863. It is notable to that after the proclamation had been issued the North did not lose a major engagement.

Nettie Colburn Maynard was known throughout the United States as a fine type of trance and inspirational speaker and appeared in all the leading cities. In 1891 she recorded the facts of her association with Lincoln in "Was Abraham Lincoln a Spiritualist?" (*)

After Lincoln's assassination in 1865 his widow claimed that she was often in communication with her husband. On one occasion she visited Mumler, the pioneer of spirit photography. Though her visit was made incognito and she was heavily veiled she obtained a striking photograph of her husband.

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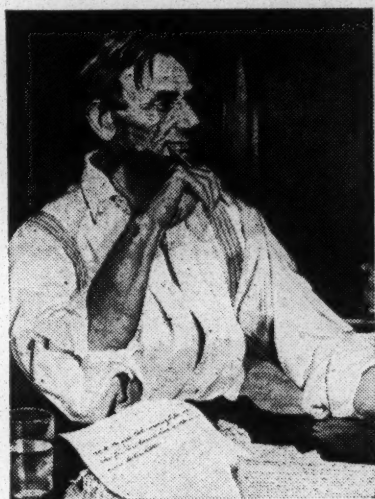
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Errata and Addenda:

Taken from the Journal of the AMERICAN SOCIETY for Psychical Research

"It may not be generally known that President Lincoln himself was a firm believer in Spiritualism and that during his administration he frequently consulted a certain medium (Miss Nettie Colburn), particularly preceding important cabinet meetings. There can be found in the Congressional Library in Washington an interesting volume entitled 'Was Abraham Lincoln a Spiritualist?' by Nettie Colburn Maynard, of White Plains, N. Y., (Dale News, Inc., \$3.50), in which most remarkable spiritualistic seances that took place in President Lincoln's presence are described.

"At one of these seances the topic was Lincoln's forthcoming emancipation proclamation. Thru the control (a young girl with little understanding of the political situation being the medium), 'Lincoln was charged with utmost solemnity and force of manner' not to abate the terms of its issue. He was urged not to delay its enforcement as a law beyond the opening of the year; and he was assured that it was to be the crowning event of his administration and his life; and that while he was being counselled by strong parties to defer the enforcement of it, hoping to supplant it by other measures and to delay action, he must in no wise heed such counsel, but stand firm to his convictions and fearlessly perform the work and fulfill the mission for which he had been raised up by an overruling Providence."

The book describes the scene which took place in one of the parlors of the White House in the following words: "Those present declared that they lost sight of the timid girl in the majesty of the ut-

terance, the strength and force of the language, and the importance of that which was conveyed and seemed to realize that some strong masculine spirit force was giving speech to almost divine commands."

When leaving the room the President turned to the medium and said: "My child, you possess a very singular gift; but that it is of God, I have no doubt. I thank you for coming here tonight. It is more important than perhaps any one can understand."

LINCOLN APPEARED!

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3)

the handling of the photographic plates, with the same result.

Andrew Jackson Davis the famous seer who preceded organized Spiritualism, was Editor of a New York publication. He sent a professional photographer to make a thorough investigation. He returned convinced of the medium's genuineness.

Soon Mumler had more applications for sittings than he could find time for, and appointments were made for weeks ahead. The sitters came from all classes, ministers, doctors, lawyers, judges, mayors, professors and business men.

Mumler Weathers Attacks

Then came what was thought to be a blow, although it has since happened with other photographic mediums. Extras of living persons appeared on some plates. Mumler said he could not explain the results—we are now far more familiar with this kind of happening. But then, even the early Spiritualists thought that he had stooped to trickery.

Public opinion was against him and Mumler left for New York, where he continued to give successful seances. Then he was arrested by order of the Mayor of New York at the instance of a newspaper reporter, whose complaint was that he had received an unrecognizable extra!

After a lengthy trial, at which professional photographers testified on his behalf, Mumler was discharged without a stain on his character. In 1884 he "died" in poverty.

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HIDDEN POWER

Mental House-cleaning must be pursued with daily persistence. Only thus can we gain strength and force to combat every weakness which tends to promote procrastination of the journey toward the individual HIDDEN POWER.

It is your privilege to choose and do your part in the World's Destiny.

by
Charlotte G. Frietsch-Gunter,
F. R. C.
Pine Rest, Spotswood, New Jersey

About a half century ago that great mystic, Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, declared "Many and strange will be the romances—true presentiments of what lies in the bosom of the future, much of which is—corroborated by scientific experiments."

And in truth, it must now be admitted in our more modern day, that many an occult and mystic power is daily being demonstrated.

Also our brother in high spiritual ventures, John Ruskin, tells us that "Wherever power of any kind or degree has been exerted, the marks and evidence of it are stamped upon its results: it is impossible that it should be lost or wasted, or without record, even to the estimation of a hair."

Apply the Teachings

How strange is it not that educators should not give weighty consideration to profound statements such as these! Great would be the immediate advancement of the world's affairs, were these teachings to be applied from earliest infancy to the hidden power of thought.

Everywhere, every day and under every conceivable circumstance, thought vibrates around us. Some are weakly vascillating, remaining perhaps but as a brief blur. Some may be luke-warm, struggling along for some time, creating a minimum amount of good or bad.

And there are the strong ones, thoughts deliberately directed according to definite plans and destined to perfect or upset the earth's affairs.

Each one has the privilege to choose. Each one plays his part in the world's destiny through the medium of the thought he generates and disseminates.

Thought—A Vibratory Energy

The individually generated thought is, in essence, a miniature form of atomic force. It may not be as hideously destructive in its coverage as has that of the recently scientific demonstration proved the atomic bomb to be. Yes, individually concentrated force via the route of Willed thought power can be either constructive or destructive.

Thought is a tremendous vibratory entity. It is a creation of the mind somewhat on the order of a PERSONALLY manufactured secret atomic bomb, individually manipulated. Each one has his own highly individualized monopoly on his thought world. Few people give this dangerous possession much consideration.

Where Do We Come From?

Thoughts flow on in and out of their sphere, every minute of the day. Whose thoughts are they? Where do they come from? Do these wanderers from who knows where, illumine life's path, or do they leave a hurred cloud of un-

pleasantness? These and many more questions we should ask ourselves every time a thought creeps up on our minds.

The thought of single-minded purpose, deliberately, determinedly projected is all-powerfully effective. It may leave its traces on the world for centuries. It may imbue a certain spot with such powerful radiations that others will, ever after, be influenced by such radiations.

A place can be made holy or wickedly vile, by virtue of one individual's daily, regular, sacredly concentrated meditations, or by the plotting and planning for the undoing of the world and its people. However, in the long run, the holy thought bomb will eventually destroy the poisonous radiations of the evil stirrings set loose upon any section of the earth, or throughout the world.

"Light on the Path"

It is generally conceded in these days that thought is a powerful force. It still remains, however, for educational institutions to introduce this beneficial and lethal weapon into the class-room as a thorough study. Bringing forth the specifically divine effects and blessings of thought power through study will produce a higher type of individual than any known before in our world. This study would bring to the surface other mystic and psychic forces besides the power of thinking scientifically and mystically in correct measure.

We should soon find that even among our youngest children immediate requirements would arise for definite establishment of pro-

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After long years of search, I learned how to overcome these troubles, deriving as they do from essentially the same causes... The method is natural, drugless, easy to understand, thoroughly practical—but so little known. Yet it is the only way to prevent and overcome common troubles that destroy life and happiness. Wrinkles lessened. Life is prolonged. Even my eyesight improved tremendously.

It would appear from my research, moreover, that my discoveries apply not only to the troubles that I have already mentioned (and with which I have had personal experience), but also they apply in great measure to most other troubles—such as appendicitis, asthma, cataracts, stomach ulcers, diabetes, arthritis, or rheumatism, headaches, feelings of fear and insecurity, cancer, tuberculosis, and even stuttering.

That you can benefit from my experience is beyond doubt. Even if you are in good health now, you can improve it. And over a period of time you cannot fail to save yourself and family many dollars in needless health expenses.

The story of my discoveries, embodying the knowledge of which I speak and specific instructions, I have published in a small treatise. New and revised it sells for \$2. You are very welcome to try my treatise for a few days before deciding to keep it. Within two days you should feel some results.

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tection of the highly sensitive child. It were well to teach all children the pithy knowledge to be found in "LIGHT ON THE PATH" written by Mabel Collins.

In the book, there is a passage:

Intelligence is impartial; no man is your enemy; no man is your friend. All alike are your teachers. Your enemy becomes a mystery that must be solved. Your friend becomes part of yourself, an extension of yourself, a riddle hard to read.

Children would evolve many more fields of consciousness if they were taught that all of life is a school, that each moment, each minute, each hour and every day from dawn to dusk is governed by their thought, their feelings and actions. And that the sum of all these items create the pattern of their lives.

Reason for Advancement

If they were, furthermore, to be led into paths of enlightenment concerning their past lives, as well, and those to come, a child would speedily evolve into a very high type of human being. So long as these truths are misrepresented and scorned, so long also, we shall be confronted with the malefactor and scoffer of love, order and harmony which are divine in essence.

In every class room, advancement in any form of study depends almost wholly on the student. One who desires to proceed at a quicker clip, will know that he must organize his study. There has to be a definite method in even the least of things.

Power of the Unseen

In addition, there are also the reactions of others to be considered. Also this feature of life has to be included in our study plan. If each one were to follow this system of regular study, he would be using his hidden power to full advantage.

Hidden power vibrates all around us in everything seen and unseen. And the unseen will make itself known to anyone who evolves his inner instruments to the point where response will be forthcoming.

If we keep a piano covered up, for instance, we shall never be able to strike the keys. It may be stressed, as well, that we shall never be able to strike the keys and bring forth a musical composition unless we delve into the mysteries that are represented by a musical composition.

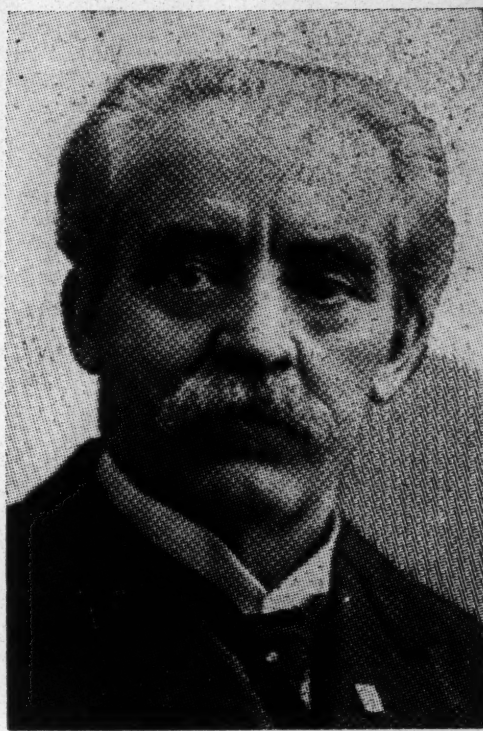
The same holds true relating to the hidden power within the human spirit. If the harp of one's heart is kept tuned and is trained by means of daily practice, subtle vibrations all around will begin to play upon the mystery strings.

Strange Environment

An instance such as this is recalled in the writer's experience. Sojourning in a Scandinavian country several years ago, circumstances brought me into a completely strange environment, both as to locale and people. An introduction had been provided by a friend to the owner of an estate.

Here a charming room was awaiting me which had formerly been the study of the family's daughter. There were, it may be stressed, no signs whatsoever of the room's having functioned as a study. This fact was learned at a later date.

It was arranged for my use, as a sitting room and bed chamber, combined. Instantly, however, when the door was closed, and I was about to enjoy my privacy, it seemed as if a hundred quiet, harmonious voices were speaking a strange language. The sensation



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was brushed aside for the moment.

Immediately thereafter, when thoughts came to and fro, as thoughts will, the words and phrasing took peculiar twists. Pausing to reflect and to listen, with an INNER EAR, as we may call it, the interesting phenomena proved distinctly to represent forms of expression that we find in *Old English* and *Middle English*.

Although I could immediately classify the words as such, it may be pointed out that I was in no way skilled in carrying on conversations in this ancient mode of speech.

Enchantment Persisted

It may be well to add that the mode of thinking, generally, was both in pictures, and in well-defined clear sentences. Therefore the strangeness of the words were instantly recognizable. Ever the dreams during that period were definitely Chaucerian in expression.

Only when leaving this room, or while concentrating in meditation, or reading, writing and painting could I escape this enchantment.

In one way it was annoying. Since lengthy discourses took place in the dreams, little or nothing registered, since it was conducted in the unfamiliar phraseology of this ancient form of speech.

Seeking a solution of this magic

power, it was disclosed that the family's daughter had spent two years in that very room pursuing studies in English for the attainment of the *Laudaterin* English. It then became clear to me that the entire wall had been saturated with these powerful thought vibrations of the earnest student who was studying for a university degree which required concentration on these ancient forms of the English language.

Those who understand the inner power of vibratory thought, will readily realize that the daily, concentrated thinking of this student had saturated the entire room with the subject-matter under consideration.

Such an individual will also easily concede that a person who had evolved himself to a degree where attunement was available to higher dimensional vibratory force, that this person could sense the hidden power in such a room.

Daily Meditation

Psychic experience of this nature, and thousands of others, are at the elbow of each one. The perceptive potentialities lie dormant in all human beings. They require an awakening. They can only be awakened in their purest and securest forms by means of regeneration and purification of the mental, emotional and spiritual planes of the individual who seeks clarity in this world of mysticism.

Daily meditation on lofty ideals and spiritual ways of solving life's tribulations, will open the way. In addition each one must seek the path of perfection by eliminating undesirable features which still cling to his soul.

To do so, it is of essential importance that the mental house-cleaning be pursued with consistency, indomitability and daily persistence. Only thus can one gain strength and force to combat every weakness which tends to promote procrastination of the journey toward the individual HIDDEN POWER.

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Threshold Problems

A PUZZLING CASE

By ERNEST OATEN

I have often stressed the fact that the process of communication is far more complex than is generally supposed. A large number of people who attend circles or arrange a sitting with a medium, are prone to imagine that the friend who is communicating just takes control of the body of the medium and speaks as naturally as if he were using his own body; though close observation generally reveals breaks and lapses—perhaps even contortions—which give evidence that the flow of the stream of conversation is beset with obstacles.

A regular communicator (or guide) who by long practice has grown accustomed to operating through a given medium learns to overcome such obstacles, or more probably makes prior arrangements on the spirit side of life, which prepares in advance the track on which the train of his communications should run, whilst he himself becomes a facile driver as the result of long experience.

Six Seances Checked

All mediums know that each of them has certain guides who regulate the flow of communications through them and have a voice in determining who shall use them. The idea that any Tom, Dick or Harry can use any medium at will should have been abandoned long ago. Often when the communicator is unfamiliar with the processes essential to good transmission or is considerably unfit to be given direct control, messages are handed on from the communicator to the guide who in turn transmits the message.

A Good Spiritualist

Now obvious with each variant in the chain some measure of accuracy is sacrificed as is the case on earth when messages are transmitted from mouth to mouth in tabloid or abbreviated form. We do not expect 100 per cent accuracy in a message which has passed through three or four hands unless an actual note is made. Hence we say "rumor is a lying jade," though half our present day news is based upon what someone is reported to have said.

A friend of mine (a good Spiritualist) has just shown me a copy of notes taken at five seances—not all with the same medium. They range over a period of twelve months. Her personal life was quite unknown to the mediums in question who all thought that she was a spinster. The following is a summary of the chief points; comments are in parenthesis.

First seance. "Your father John (correct) is here! He has brought someone named Cole (correct). For a time your life was linked with this man but there was disillusionment and violation of all ideals. He was a few years older

than you. This influence was in your early life. He has now passed over and needs your help. This man Cole let you down. He has not been long in spirit. He says 'Beatrice (Correct), I'm sorry!' We ask you to send out thoughts of forgiveness and help. There is also someone named Henry Fairburn. He was in your life about the same time. He led a fast life—you knew him (a neighbor). These men have been hanging in the background and your father has brought them forward. They have been through great mental suffering.

Seance 2. Henry Fairburn sends regards to you.

Seance 3. A man named Cole is here.

Seance 4. Cole — your father brings him. There is a marriage tie. He says you don't want him but sends his regards for old times sake. He says we never fitted in; the niches were all wrong.

Seance 5. Cole! At one time you used this name as a pen name (correct). There is someone named Cole in our world. He wants to help you all he can and he would like to be remembered. It was in your singing days you knew him; your impulsive days. I don't know who the man is, but there is no tie now, but he is still eager to be your friend though he regrets many things.

Seance 6. Do you know anyone in my world called Cole? (yes) There is a connection and he comes with terrible regrets. There was a going out but no coming back. He didn't treat you well and when he went there was a sense of relief. He says "had I followed your ideals it could have been made a perfect life. This man did not take care of his body, developed T.B. and that caused his passing. This man was your husband. He says "Of course she knows me — she was my wife." You were in your early twenties at the time of the crisis when the drift took place. He says he passed away at the age of 45. He would have been 48 next birthday (correct).

My friend is an experienced investigator now nearing middle life. She married unhappily and subsequently divorced her husband. She has passed for many years since under her maiden name, and none of her present acquaintances know the closed chapter in her life. I have quoted the leading features of the seances held with three different mediums — all of whom obtained the same evidence of the identity and in each case there was a description of the actual appearance of Cole.

Can You Explain This?

All the details given concerning Cole and Fairburn appear to be perfectly correct with one exception. My friend has received conclusive evidence that both Cole and Fairburn—they were all in a musical circle—are still alive on this earth.

The case does not stand alone. Mr. S. R. Soal and others have placed similar cases on record, though they are quite exceptional.

Most of my friend's communications seemed to have been directed by her father. Was it he who made the error, or is there some other reason?

* * *

I believe the only way to ascertain truth and to understand the laws which are operative is to state frankly the whole of the facts. The solution of obscure problems may well lead to a higher apprehension of the laws and processes involved.

Who made the mistake? The father? the guide? or the mind of the medium?

A True 'Pygmalion' Story

From the Gospel of

Sri Ramakrishna (*)

By GRACE P. SCHAFER

No matter to what heights our imaginative fantasies soar, sooner or later we hear the realities of our dreams have taken form . . . becoming actualities.

It is becoming a frequent occurrence to hear testimonies from those who have stumbled upon the creative power of thought, just as the mythological character, Pygmalion had done: A devout votary of Venus (goddess of love) and a sculptor, Pygmalion explored the goddess that he granted a wife similar to his beloved virgin, ivory statue . . . his modeled Ideal, product of his artistic skill, for which he was stricken with a hopeless love.

The romantic lover's request was granted when, unexpectedly, the creation of his finely chiseled thought became warm and animated . . . springing to life under the pressure of his kisses. Paphos (for whom the city, sacred to Venus, was named) was born from this union.

A true Pygmalion story, recorded by M. a disciple of Ramakrishna, may be found in *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*, now translated into English by Swami Nikhilanando (1942). The substance of the story follows:

Ramlala

Jatadhari, a wandering monk, of the Vaishnava sect, came to Kakehineswar about the year 1864. He always carried with him a small metal image which he called Ramlala, the boy Rama, because his Ideal Diety was Rama (Divine Incarnation of a famous Hindu epic).

Toward the little image he displayed the tender affection of a Kansalya (mother of Rama) for her divine son, Rama.

After years of spiritual practice the monk actually found the presence of the living God in the metal image which ceased to be just a metal image for him. He would take Rama for a walk, play with him, bathe him, nurse and feed him and he found that the image responded to his love.

Sri Ramakrishna was greatly impressed by Jatadhari's devotion and invited him to spend a few days at his home in Dakshineswar. Soon the great teacher, Sri Ramakrishna, made Ramlala his favorite companion too . . . a sweet relation.

(*) This book, the Gospel of SRI RAMAKRISHNA sells for \$7.50 (Dale News, Inc.). It contains 24 authentic photographs associated with the life and background of the Master.

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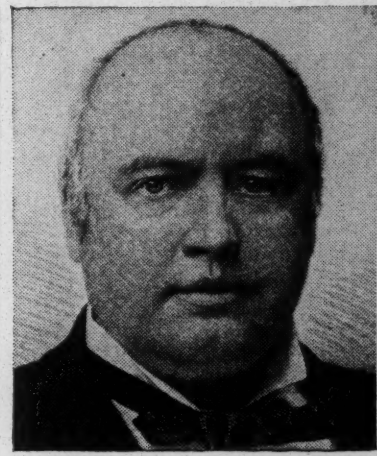
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(P-180)

What Ingersoll Thought Of ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Great Orator Tells of Lincoln's Interest in Spiritualism.

Proves Own Identity



Psychic Observer

Robert G. Ingersoll

By ROBERT G. INGERSOLL

"He had the touch of nature that makes the whole world kin."

Lincoln had intellect without arrogance, Genius without pride, and religion without cant—that is to say, without bigotry and without deceit. He was an orator—clear, sincere, natural. He did not pretend. He did not say what he thought others thought, but what he thought.

If you wish to be sublime you must be natural—you must keep close to the grass. You must sit by the fireside of the heart; above the clouds it is too cold.

Lincoln was an immense personality—firm but not obstinate. He influenced others without effort, unconsciously; and they submitted to him as men submit to nature—unconsciously. He was severe with himself, and for that reason lenient with others. He did merciful things as stealthily as others committed crimes.

Know Thyself

Almost ashamed of tenderness, he said and did the noblest words and deeds with that charming confusion, that awkwardness, that is the perfect grace of modesty.

Through days and nights of sorrow, through years of grief and pain, with unswerving purpose, "with malice toward none, with charity for all, with infinite patience, with unclouded vision, he hoped and toiled. Stone after stone was laid, until at last the Proclamation found its place. On that the Goddess stands.

He knew others, because perfectly acquainted with himself. He cared nothing for place, but everything for principle; little for money, but everything for inde-

pendence sprang up between them. Later the master teacher described to his devotees "how the little image, for whom he felt the love of a mother, would dance gracefully before him, jump on his back, insist on being taken in his arms, run to the fields in the sun, pluck flowers from the bushes, and play pranks like a naughty boy."

Realize Your Ideals

One day Jatadhari bade Sri Ramakrishna adieu and with tearful eyes he presented the little metal image to the master, declaring that he had no more need of formal worship, since Ramlala had fulfilled his innermost prayer.

A few years later SRI RAMAKRISHNA was blessed through RAMLALA with a vision of RAMACHANDRA (Divine Incarnation) whereby he realized that the RAMA of the RAMAYANA, the son of DASARTHA, pervades the whole universe as Spirit and Consciousness; that he is its Creator, Sustainer and Destroyer; that, in still another aspect, He is the transcendental BRAHMAN, without form, attribute or name.

Our Christian, Master Jesus taught that our Ideals may be realized also. He said, *Whatever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

Carrying on a sustained conversation for more than twelve minutes, he spoke during a seance to the editors of *Psychic Observer* . . . giving dates, names, places and pertinent information in an effort to prove that he not only could return but could also speak and give conclusive evidence that he actually was INGERSOLL.

This happened through the direct-voice mediumship of Dorothy Maxwell who resides permanently at Lily Dale, N. Y.

pendence. He knew no fear, except the fear of doing wrong. Hating slavery, pitying the master—seeking to conquer, not persons, but prejudices—he was the embodiment of the self-denial, the courage, the hope, and the nobility of a Nation.

He spoke not to inflame, not to upbraid, but to convince. He raised his hands, not to strike but in benediction. He longed to pardon. He loved to see the pearls of joy on the cheeks of a wife whose husband he had rescued from death.

Lincoln was the grandest figure of the fiercest civil war. He is the gentlest memory of our world.

(Read "Was Abraham Lincoln a Spiritualist?" to learn of his interesting experiences in the phenomena of Spiritualism through the mediumship of Nettie Colburn Maynard. (Dale News, Inc., \$3.50)

I Am His Widow

In 1867, two years after Mr. Lincoln's death, Mrs. Lincoln visited the photograph gallery of Mr. William Mumler in Boston, Massachusetts.

She did not give him her name but went incog., and sat for her picture under another name. When she went to obtain her proof the lady in attendance said to her: "Madam, a very strange result has come upon the plate with your photo. President Lincoln is standing behind you." She answered: "That is all right. I am his widow." (See photo on page 1)

Many copies were taken from the original negative and sold, both in Boston and the societies of the students of Occult Phenomena. One was copied on a half-tone plate in Paris, France, which was a true replica of the original photograph with Mrs. Lincoln. The publisher of this half-tone enlargement also had a proof from the original plate and knows the exact truth of obtaining of the original negative, being intimately acquainted with Mr. Mumler's brother, after William Mumler had "passed on" to the next realm of life through the gateway of death.

o o

A few used copies of the book: "Wit, Wisdom & Eloquence of Col. Robert G. Ingersoll"—Price \$2.50; Dale News, Inc. This book is a record of speeches delivered by Ingersoll during his life-time.

Be Informed!

SPIRITUAL PROGRESS: What the spirit world teaches; Who are we? Our relations to the material world and other essential questions. Write for free sample to: A. Babos, Box 1980, Cleveland (6) Ohio. (P-178)

★ Ursula Bloom says LEARN TO FORGET YOURSELF

Miss Ursula Bloom wrote her first book when she was seven and is now a popular novelist. Interested in Spiritualism, she here offers some sensible advice to those seeking proof of life after death.

MOST of us go to a seance for a personal message. That is a natural instinct. We believe that proof is something that we only can prove, and through contact with someone we know who has passed on. The proof that we get is quite often very limited, rather faulty and disappointing, and we come back feeling that there is nothing in it, and that the whole thing is one big farce.

That isn't true. What is true is that we, limited by a very little world are trying to tap in on a very little one. Our smallness and limitation hamper us. We are so possessed with our selves, and the little petty incidents that can prove identity, that we do not want to see beyond. If people would only approach a sitting in a different mood, I am convinced that they would experience very much finer results.

When a soul passes on, it is launched into a great world which is very different from this one, and has far fewer limits. We know that much. They are given work to do and it is absorbing work, of vital importance to the universe.

Have you ever thought how irritating it must be to be called back to give a lot of niggling little proofs when you are intensely interested in your own big new world, and the work that you are doing?

Cannot Force Proof

Also the sitters, in time, are bound to come to this world, and the importance to the spirit is how to prepare them for that and make their road easier.

The chance to communicate is not frequent—it is rare and difficult—yet not one spirit in a thousand gets the opportunity to make the most of that time because they are constantly being badgered to "give proof."

Proof is unsatisfactory unfortunately. The working of the human mind is enquiring; it accepts a piece of information and then immediately begins picking holes in it. It asks further proof. Like

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that, it is for ever rotating in a ridiculous circle which at best gets one nowhere.

The next time you attend a sitting, forget yourself. Don't ask for proof (*you will find incidentally that it comes through far more easily and readily than ever before, if you do not ask for it*); ask for help in living, and guidance on the future.

By this I do not mean that you should ask what will happen in the future; Spiritualism is not an enlarged form of fortune telling; it is TRUE. Spiritualism is information from those who have lifted the veil, and who are far more able to help us than we realize.

What Is Evidence

If you have loved ones on the other side, try to put away your own grief; try to think of them as being still near you, which in fact they are. Ask them to help you to draw closer.

At the first sitting to which I went and forgot myself, I obtained the most marvelous proof, and incidentally some most interesting evidence from my mother. My son was born seven months after she passed over. I asked her had she been anxious to know about him, and when she first saw him.

She told me that for some time she saw me carrying a "something," in my arms, but could not see it because in that world the body meant nothing, it was only the spirit that mattered, and until the child developed some personality, they could never see it. He was about nine months old the first time she saw him, and he was then very ill.

That was true; he had been severely scalded.

Aimless Quest for Truth

She said that in her world they knew when a person was going to live or die many hours before we did in this world, because part of their work was connected with that. She tried to get over to me the fact that he would live—but failed, because I was so frantic with worry that I would not listen to her.

She said that the people on earth so often built up enormous barricades through their own apprehensions that they completely prevented the good offices of those who had gone on.

You yourself will keep standing in your own light, was the way that she put it.

Too many of us are still standing in our own light when we have got as far as the seance room. We cannot accept; we must question. Whilst we insist on questioning, and cannot accept, we shall never get very far I am sure.

Today, perhaps more than for many unhappy years, so many have lost their loved ones, and are groping out into the darkness to meet them. They want proof. They stand in their own light and refuse the proof that is offered them in this way.

Do not hurry a sitting. Go to it some time after you personally have recovered from your own grief. Grief can be a big barrier, and do remember that it can disturb them as much as it disturbs you.

Don't seek proof wildly; let

them tell you what they want to tell you. Realize that they have entered a fuller world, and that they know best. Realize also, that in this fuller world there is no time, and this may make their evidence very difficult to understand, because when they are newly passed over they had not had the opportunity to acclimatize themselves to the new condition.

Only when you sit down and think about it fully, do you realize what an enormous part time plays in your present-world life. What an enormous part it plays in evidence that you may receive.

Distrust it, because there is no such thing as time really, and this is something that you have got to realize and treat in its proper perspective.

Learn To Live This Life

But, you say, there is time, time in that I was born and have only a certain number of years to live before I die; the road from birth to death has milestones which are marked by hours?

The fact that you do not die repudiates that theory. Those milestones are not marked with days and weeks and months, but with your actions and thoughts which take you forward or set you back.

These are the milestones, and the road goes on for ever. There may be a gate through which you pass, no more. Beyond it the road is wider.

Forget the fact that you are you and only interested in yourself in your little world; try to strain forward and see beyond that gate. Proof will be given to you, but in their way; there are more important points than proof.

You are a very small unit of a very large world, far larger than you realize. Help can be given you to realize it; take it when it is offered, but don't flood it with a tide of trivialities which are so unimportant.

Prove life after death by learning to live this life better, by learning some of the truths about it, by seeking help from the other side, which, and I speak from personal experience, will never be withheld.

"Prediction"

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What I Observe
by
R.G. Pressing



Which is the Permanent Ego?

While looking over some of the Spiritualist literature written by Dr. J. M. Peebles, I found many articles proving that he was ever "a defender of the faith." Whenever attacks were made upon him, he was ready to reply. A worth-while bit of reading is contained in his answers to Alfred Kitson, one of "The Grand Old Man's severest critics:

Kitson was necessarily right when stating in substance, that my "opinions" may not be authoritative when "not warranted" by facts. But, step lightly here; for a square falsehood may be a fact. Certainly the weather facts of northern Europe belie the facts of Southern Italy on the same day and hour. As well attempt to unite oil and water, as facts and truths. The latter have in them moral qualities. The opinions of the scientific and the really cultured are of infinitely more value than those of the prejudiced and the illiterate.

I am personally referred to as *the Grand Old Man of Modern Spiritualism*. Granted that I was the compeer of A. J. Davis, Professor Hare, Judge Edmonds, and other pioneers; granted further, that I delivered a series of Sunday evening lectures upon Spiritualism in London nearly seventy years ago (1869), and was the guest of William and Mary Howitt and James Burns; I have to say that I, the conscious ego, the deific entity, am not old.

In your letter upon the soul's problem, you have referred to a Biblical sceptic's words, that "What befalleth men, befalleth beasts," etc. Very true to a wide extent. Many Spiritualists believe that the undying souls of horses, dogs, cats, and pets are immortal; and certain mediums declare that they see the souls of these "beasts" rollicking in the spirit world.

Further, in this letter, we are brought *philosophically to scholastics following Aristotle*. Here, feeling quite at home, I grant that the ancient Pagan philosophers believed in the immortality of the soul, which soul was made up of "small round atoms."

Critias states that the "soul originates and resides in the blood." Epicurus taught that "the soul in a material organism composed of exceedingly small particles, and will perish when the world-period ends." Yes, the majority of those old Pagan philosophers taught the immortality of the soul, and some of the ancient church fathers followed their teachings. They knew no better. They were functioning in the moral realm of Psuche (soul); and not of Pneuma (Spirit).

The philosopher Plato, almost regarded as a god, one of the most vindictive persecutors that ever dishonored the past. The eminent Dr. Priestly quotes this from Plato: *If a man neglect the gods by omitting sacrifices and despising oaths, he must be punished, deserving more than one or two deaths . . . Some who are obstinate in their opinions may be confined in prisons surrounded by the sea; and when dying, should be buried off from the bounds of the State.*

We quote the above as a hopeful saving force, to a little class of Spiritualists who gloat over the teachings couched in Proverbs and other portions of the Bible. People generally find what they hunt for. Many should read the Sermon on the Mount and practice the Golden Rule seeing the good and true in all Bibles.

The plain truth is, we get Soul, which Mr. Kitson champions, from the Greek word *Psuche*; which occurs 105 times in the New Testament, and is translated life, soul, heart, time, person, you, appetite, desire, mind; altogether, it is rendered in more than forty ways—a poor, flimsy foundation for the demonstration of immortality.

The notion that the soul is immortal, is an old, Calvinistic church dogma, borrowed or stolen from Paganism. The orthodox confession of faith says, "The bodies of man after death, return to dust; and their souls return to God who gave them." And so they sing,—

A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify;
A never-dying soul to save and fitted for the sky.

The Greek word rendered Spirit in the New Testament, goes directly to the root of this matter. "*Pneuma ho Theos*"—Spirit is God—not Soul. When the great healer of Nazareth was expiring on the cross, he cried, *Father, into Thy hands I commend my Spirit*—not soul.

FEDERATION PLANS 1948 CENTENNIAL

We quote an excerpt from a letter received from Rev. V. R. Cummins, President of The Federation of Spiritual Churches and Associations, Inc., 1401 East Fourth St., Joplin, Missouri:

"The Supreme Council of the FEDERATION has voted UNANIMOUSLY to call the 1948 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION of the birth of Modern Spiritualism in the city of Rochester, New York, in the Spring of 1948. Plans are underway and the British and Canadian workers will be invited to take part. This, of course, in no way obviates the many thousands of individual Church and mass-meetings that will be held all over the nation, but it does mean that the main celebration in this country IS ALREADY CALLED AND BEING WORKED ON FOR ALL SPIRITUALISTS. The CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE WILL ARRANGE 'side-trips' to both Lily Dale and Buffalo and it is my hope to influence them to set aside a FULL WEEK FOR LILY DALE AND ENVIRONS."

According to Rev. Cummins, the Federation now numbers 95 Churches and Associations in 23 states as members. These will send delegates to Chicago, April 15th, 1946, to the Grand Council Convention. For details write: Rev. Cummins, 614 Travis Bldg., San Antonio (5), Texas.

A Genuine Spirit Communication

From

W. T. STEAD — JOHN JACOB ASTOR

Through the Trance Mediumship of
MRS. CARL A. WICKLAND

This article was brought to the attention of the editors of **PSYCHIC OBSERVER** by Bertha Moersch, 4828 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. It was clipped from April (1928) issue of Reason magazine, published by Austin Publishing Company, Los Angeles, California. The data for the article was given October 23rd, 1916, through the trance mediumship of Mrs. Carl A. Wickland (deceased) at The National Psychological Institute, Los Angeles, California.—ED.

We had a very pleasant surprise this evening when the spirit controlling said:

This is not the first time I have talked with you since I passed out, but at first it is always a little difficult to talk when we come in contact with matter. The condition which I went through with at the time of the sinking of the boat. I am interested in the same line of work you are. I tried to demonstrate that it was possible to establish communications between the two worlds.

Friends, you have difficulties, sorrows and troubles, when you start on the road to show the stubborn people that there is a life on the other side. Have courage, do your work, and don't worry. We are all around you to help.

Do Not Be Discouraged

My name is **WILLIAM STEAD OF LONDON**. I came here to give your circle strength and power, and to give you strength and help. There is much need of it.

I have gone from circle to circle to find out if I could do my work right. There are many who

Noble Contributors



Psychic Observer

Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Wickland

A keen understanding and cure for obsession was their greatest contribution to the cause of Spiritualism.

who conduct a circle in the way in which it should be conducted. It should not be from a selfish motive but for the good it can do to help humanity and the discouraged ones by the wayside. There are many who pass on that remain around the earth and try to do all kinds of mischief. I know we have a great work before us, but do not be discouraged.

Unite, and with unity of spirit, we will all stand by you and see

that the work will be done right, and finally recognized. Don't be discouraged. It is hard at times. I had a hard struggle when I was on earth, but I did not take any notice of people's opinions and their little minds.

After Mr. Stead had departed, another spirit stepped in, crying in a loud voice: *HELP, HELP, That man told me to come in here. I drowned, but I have come to life again. I cannot see that man any more. He told me to step in that you would help me. I do not know if the water blinded me or not, but I am blind.*

The Spirit was in great agony, but after a talk by Dr. Wickland that when they got knowledge their spiritual eyes would be opened.

Dear friends, what is the matter, anyway? What will I do to get out of this darkness. I must have my wife and child, please help me, this darkness is terrible.

I really was not what I should have been. I just lived for self. I wanted amusement and to spend money. I can clearly remember so many places where I could have done good, but now it seems to be too late.

Doctor Wickland explained that when one lives for self alone they usually find themselves in darkness when they pass over to the other side of life.

The spirit then asked why such beautiful explanations could not be taught the world at large, but answered his own question by saying *I suppose they would not listen.*

Doctor Wickland asked him how much he would have cared to listen to anybody that wanted to talk with him on such subjects. The spirit said that nobody had approached him with such thoughts

Titanic Victim Speaks!



Psychic Observer

John Jacob Astor

When he was on the earth-plane he never had time for such things as "spirit communication." He thinks differently now.

as the Doctor had given him and then continued:

I had a very great deal of money, and lately I have wanted some to spend, but I could not get hold of it. I have been in a hell of darkness. Sometimes I seemed to be shut up in a room, very dark, and I could see nothing but a procession of my past life. I was not a bad man, you probably know what society people are. I cannot say to you what they are, because I would not care to use the word. Why is it that God lets a person live in all this trouble?

Dr. Wickland advised him to go with his father and mother and try to understand his present condition, then he would feel much happier.

The spirit then said that he could again see Mr. Stead and continued:

I met him on the boat but I had

no use for his teachings. I thought he was old, and that he had a hobby. You know when people get old they have hobbies, of one kind or another. I never had time for such things, because all I thought of was my money and society. I could do so differently now.

My mother is waiting for me, and I should like to go with her, for I have not seen her for many years, and it is good to see her. She says she could not reach me; for I was like a crazy man; that I would not listen to her. Bless you all for the help and for having opened my eyes.

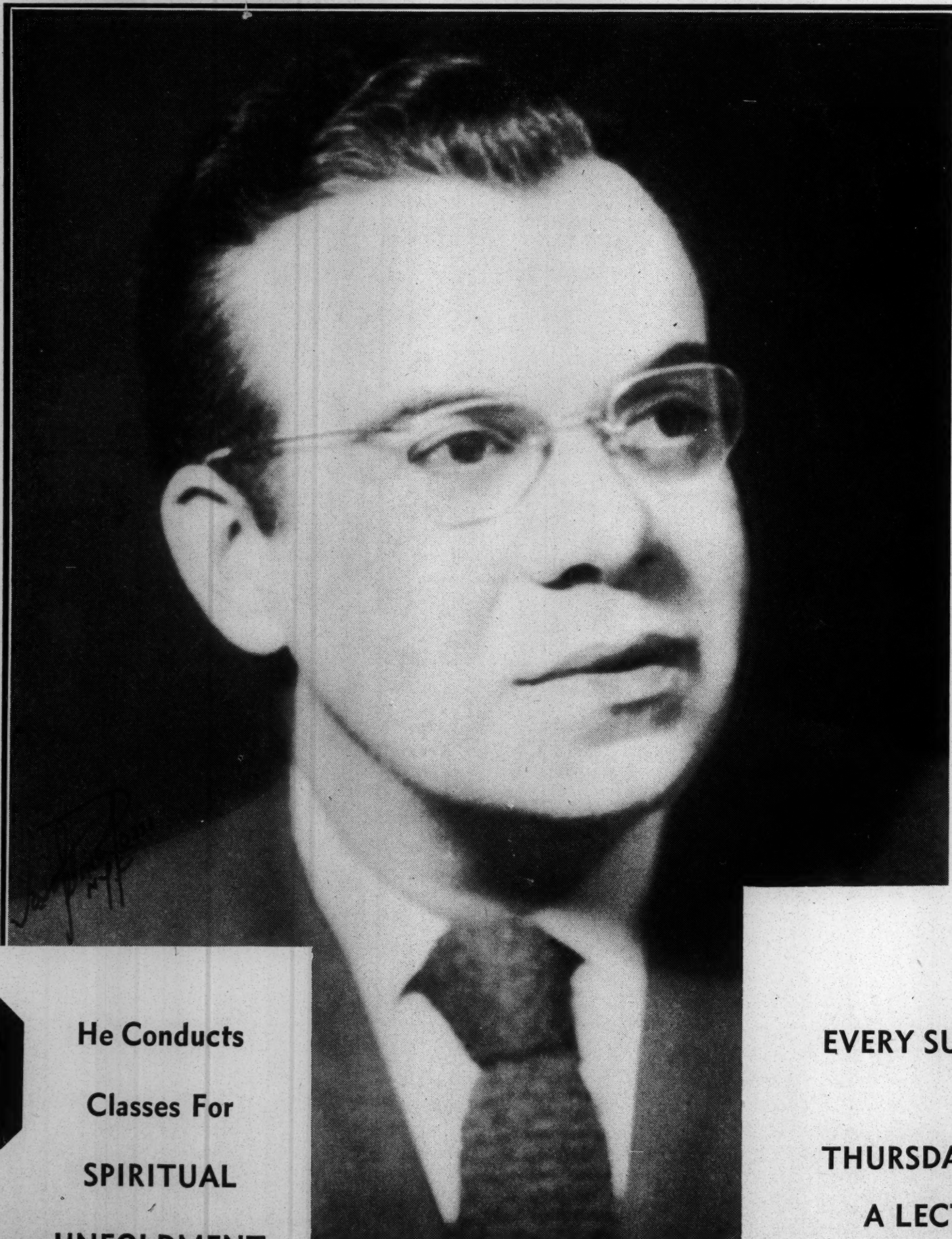
Q. We should like to know your name?

Here Is His Name!

A. My name is **JOHN JACOB ASTOR**, and I am glad I met you all. I am so grateful that I have been taught about this beautiful condition I did not know existed.

My Mother and friends come for me and now I am going through that beautiful gate which will be to me — **HEAVEN**. I again thank all of you and hope some day to come and see you again. **GOOD-BYE.**

SPECIAL NOTICE: It was in Titanic disaster of 1912 that William T. Stead and John Jacob Astor lost their lives. In the book, **BLUE ISLAND**, Stead tells in detail his experiences at the time and after the disaster. Additional information relative to the mediumship of Mrs. Carl A. Wickland can be found in her husband's two books: "Gateway of Understanding" and "Thirty Years Among The Dead" (See book page).



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